

OLC 76-1560

17 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Guy McConnell, staff of
Senate Appropriations Committee

1. Met with Guy McConnell, staff of Senate Appropriations Committee and brought him up to date on a number of matters including the personnel changes which were the subject of the Director's letter to the Chairmen of our Subcommittees, and the Senate oversight legislation (S. Res. 400), which I subsequently also discussed with Gary Sellers, of the Appropriations Committee staff, along with two of his colleagues who are following the proposals. As a matter of fact, I spoke with Sellers and company for several hours and made it clear to him that the Director did not want the Agency to be involved in supporting or torpedoing any specific proposal for Senate intelligence oversight, and therefore, we were trying to limit ourselves to our general position with respect to any oversight legislation and I talked at some length of our concerns over the fractionalization of oversight over the intelligence community, the problem involved in handling of the budget authorization as proposed in the current version of S. Res. 400, and several related matters of concern to us. Sellers said he thought our conversation had been very helpful to him and I believe that he will be recommending some amendments or floor statements to Chairman John McClellan. He seemed to be particularly ensnared in the issue of disclosure of information and more specifically, the possibility of providing some relief valve arrangement so that the Select Committee would have the authority to release some information that was either not "sensitive" because of classification or protection of disclosure by some provision of law. I don't believe that it is this important, but Sellers felt that the language as presently worded is rather fuzzy and should be clarified.

2. I also talked with McConnell about meeting with the Intelligence Operations Subcommittee which is now tentatively

scheduled for this Wednesday. I told McConnell essentially what the thrust of the Director's briefing would be on Section 662 programs and also reviewed with him the so-called "Omnibus" finding of 10 January 1975 and the thrust of that finding. McConnell had no difficulty with this and seemed to understand completely that that finding covered Agency-wide programs which were not the subject of separate findings.

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